

INTRODUCTION

The WIC State Agency Information System (IS) Profile is a compilation of information on each State agency's information system. The profile is intended for State agency and Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) use, as it provides important information on the status of WIC systems nationwide. However, it is also intended for contractors and others interested in State WIC systems. The WIC Program relies on information system experts, i.e., programmers, analysts, and consultants, to assist in the planning, design, development and implementation of efficient systems at a reasonable cost. Thus, this compilation of State Agency Profiles will provide system experts with some idea of how State agency systems differ, as well as provide a contact within the State agency for those interested in bidding on future development initiatives. State agency plans for system development, described in this document, provide an indication of which State agencies may be seeking contractor assistance over the next 5 years.

Included in the analysis that follows this introduction is a map displaying the status of WIC system development as of August 2002. This map will be available on the WIC website at www.fns.usda.gov/wic and will be updated periodically.

It is important to note that Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) is a technology currently being tested by a small number of WIC State agencies. For the purposes of this report, EBT costs are not included in the overall IS costs. These costs are, however, shown on page 4 of the State agency profile for those State agencies that incurred EBT costs in fiscal year 2001. The following State agencies have received grant funds from FNS for EBT: Wyoming, Michigan, Ohio, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Vermont, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas. All of these State agencies submitted an EBT cost report for fiscal year 2001.

Following this introduction is a chart displaying the seven FNS regions and State agencies within each region; national statistics; maps on the status of system development and WIC system contractors; various profile data in table form, including detailed cost data; a list of definitions describing various technologies; a state-by-state breakdown of the various types of hardware that exist at the state, local and clinic level; and a copy of the survey instrument and instructions. Volume II is a compilation of State agency profiles, sorted by FNS region.